GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2741
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
TRIAL BY MEDIA
Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware there has been an increase in the trend of media trial where verdicts are delivered even before investigating agencies complete their work and have filed chargesheets;

(b) if so,the details of the private channels involved in such activities;

(c) whether any regulatory mechanism exist to check such programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;and

(e) if not,the reasons therefor and the steps taken/being taken by the Government to curb such programme?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION & BROADCASTAING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) & (b) Such instances have been reported in the media.

(c) to (e) All programmes and advertisements telecast on TV channels transmitted/retransmitted through the Cable TV network, are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks(Regulation) Act,1995 and rules framed thereunder.The Government has also constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee(IMC) to look into the specific violation of the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks(Regulation) Act 1995 and rules framed thereunder.The IMC either suo motu or on receipt of complaints looks into the violations and thereafter gives its recommendations to the Government,based on which action is taken as per rules.Further,a committee was constituted for reviewing the existing Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks(Regulation) Act 1995 and the rules framed thereunder to provide greater specificity to the provisions of existing codes.The Committee has submitted its report to the Government on 5.3.2008 which is available on the website of the Ministry www.mib.nic.in under the heading "Self Regulation Guidelines 2008".